



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

**Romic Environmental Technologies
Corporation (Plant A0468)
East Palo Alto, CA
June 5, 2006**

On June 5, 2006 at approximately 10:30 pm, there was a chemical release from a tanker truck located at Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation in East Palo Alto. Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation is a solvent reclamation facility that accepts, stores, and refines solvent waste.

According to the solvent manifest, the tanker truck contained blended waste streams of hydroxylamine, monoethanolamine, toluene and acetonitrile. The release occurred due to a spontaneous chemical reaction inside the tanker truck causing the release through the tanker truck's safety valve vent.

At approximately 10:45 pm, the Menlo Park Fire District ordered a shelter in place, which lasted approximately one hour. East Palo Alto Police also closed the streets south of Pulgas Ave. from Bay Rd., and advised residences to shelter in place and keep windows closed.

The District received two air pollution complaints regarding this incident. District staff will continue to investigate this incident to further determine the root cause of the incident, and to determine if any air quality regulations were violated. This report will be updated as new information becomes available.

Update

The tanker truck was waiting to transport the product from Romic's East Palo Alto facility to their transfer station in Redwood City. About 30 gallons of the material was found in the parking lot, and approximately 3,000 to 3,400 gallons of the chemical mixture was released as an aerosol/fine mist that settled over an area of approximately 2 acres.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also responded at the time of the incident and collected samples for analysis. As of June 12, 2006 the EPA advised that based on their sampling, the material emitted from the tanker truck matched the material that was listed on the manifest. EPA is overseeing the

cleanup from the incident, which involves decontaminating the roads, wetlands and nearby businesses.